GOVERNMENT BEYOND THE CENTRE

SERIES EDITORS: GERRY STOKER & STEVE LEACH

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

David Wilson and
Chris Game
(with Steve Leach
and Gerry Stoker)

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Preface

This book is an attempt to present contemporary local government in a way that will strike both the academic reader and the practitioner as being of relevance to their world and experience.

David Wilson and Chris Game wrote the bulk of the book, with Steve Leach and Gerry Stoker providing some material on specific topics. All four of us work in universities. But we also spend much of our time working *outside* our respective institutions – directly with local government officers and councillors. We lead what can sometimes feel like a hybrid existence – divided between our student teaching and our management training, research and consultancy work for local government. This book is a product of that hybrid existence: one which, while rooted in the academic literature, conveys something of the atmosphere, variety and, yes, fascination of local government that we ourselves regularly experience.

While we are responsible for the conception and content of the book, we have necessarily incurred a number of debts. We should therefore like to thank especially: Professor George Jones at the LSE, whose detailed comments (both the substantive and the idiosyncratic) on the penultimate draft were challenging, encouraging and immensely helpful; his frequent collaborator, Professor John Stewart of INLOGOV, whose ideas have shaped the thinking of all those of us concerned with and for local government; Clive Gray from De Montfort University, who read through the text and offered a number of valuable suggestions; Dr David King from Stirling University, for providing some insights on the nuts and bolts of finance which are reflected in Chapter 9. Insights from numerous other colleagues and local government practitioners have also helped to shape the finished product.

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Finally, we accept full responsibility for any errors and for the views expressed in these pages.

DAVID WILSON
CHRIS GAME

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